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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6542**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1183

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 3, 2015

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 2, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Physician Assistants.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Davisson

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Sen. Patricia Miller

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** *Physician Assistants and Prescriptive Authority-* The bill allows a physician assistant who is delegated authority to prescribe a controlled substance after practicing for at least 1,800 hours. (Current law allows a physician assistant to be delegated to prescribe a controlled substance after practicing for one year after graduating from a physician assistant program and practicing for at least 1,800 hours.) The bill removes requirement that supervising physician must delegate prescribing authority by the name of the drug or drug classification.

*Removal of 30-Day Limit-* The bill removes the 30-day limitation on the amount of a controlled substance a physician assistant may prescribe.

*Physician Assistant Prescriptions-* The bill provides that a pharmacist may not require the supervising agreement or a cosignature to fill a prescription written by a physician assistant.

*Review of Physician Assistant Charts-* The bill removes the requirement that patient encounters must be reviewed within 72 hours and provides that a physician must review physician assistant charts within a reasonable time which is appropriate for the maintenance of quality medical care. The bill reduces the number of physician assistant charts that a physician must review.

*Prescription Reviews-* The bill requires 50% of patient records for a Schedule II prescription that a physician assistant writes, with less than a year of authority to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances, must be reviewed by the physician.

*Supervision Limit-* The bill provides that a physician may supervise four physician assistants at the same

time.

*Weight Loss Treatment-* The bill allows a physician assistant and certain advanced practice nurses to treat a patient with a Schedule III or Schedule IV controlled substance for weight reduction or to control obesity if certain conditions are met.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2015.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Summary:* The Medical Licensing Board may need to revise rules, based on the Physician Assistant Committee's recommendation as a result of the proposed changes. It is likely any changes to rules could be accomplished within scheduled meetings of both the boards.

The Professional Licensing Agency (PLA) may need to update the physician assistants and advance practice nurses sections of the PLA's web site to inform of the bill's changes to prescriptive authority and hours of practice.

*Additional Information-* Under current law, license holders are responsible for being aware of changes to their profession. However, the PLA does email affected license holders to notify them of the change and provide a link to the changed statute.

Additionally, professional associations will also usually highlight the changes to their members from the past legislative session.

As of June 30, 2014, there were 1,032 actively licensed physician assistants, and there were 893 active physician assistant controlled substance registrations. The State Nursing Board had 4,038 active controlled substance registrations as of June 30, 2014.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Professional Licensing Agency, Medical Licensing Board, Physician Assistant Committee.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Professional Licensing Agency, FY 2014 active license counts.

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